

states for the current quarter, April 1 to June 30, the Social Security Board announced recently.

California receives its first allotment of federal funds—\$2,700,140.63—following approval of the state's old-age assistance plan by the Social Security Board on May 6.

Wisconsin receives a total of \$1,272,790.83, which includes \$945,000 for aid to the aged, \$69,457.50 for aid to the blind, and \$258,333.33 for aid to dependent children. Washington receives \$700,703.50, consisting of \$486,202.50 for aid to the aged, \$39,501 for aid to the blind, and \$175,000 for aid to dependent children. Iowa receives \$685,125 for aid to the aged.

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have thus far taken advantage of the public-assistance provisions of the Social Security Act and are receiving federal aid in providing for their needy aged persons, blind persons, and dependent children. Federal contributions to these states for the three months ending June 30 are expected to total \$18,500,000.

In order to qualify for federal funds, states must set up public-assistance plans which meet certain requirements specified in the Social Security Act and must submit their plans to the Social Security Board for approval. When a state plan for aid to the needy aged or the blind is approved, the Federal Government will pay half of any amount, up to a combined federal-state total of \$30 a month to an individual, which the state grants to needy persons sixty-five years of age and over and to the needy blind, provided these aged or blind are not inmates of public institutions. The Federal Government also adds five per cent to its half in making its contribution. The states may use this additional amount for administering their plans, for cash payments to needy individuals, or for both.

Under approved plans for aid to dependent children, the Federal Government will match \$1 for every \$2 disbursed by the state for this form of assistance, up to a combined federal-state total of \$18 per month for the first dependent child in a family, and \$12 per month for each additional dependent child in the same family. Federal grants also include one-third of the state's administrative costs for this form of assistance.

LETTERS

Concerning article in "Time" in which American Medical Association and California Medical Association activities were mentioned.*

THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO

June 8, 1936.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Rock Sleyster has written to me relative to certain doubts which seem to exist in your vicinity relative to my relationships to *Time* magazine.

Just as soon as I read your editorial on *Time* magazine in last month's issue, I wrote a letter to Henry Luce. He apparently turned the letter over to Myron Weiss, who is in charge of science editing. I enclose herewith copy of my letter to Mr. Luce. . . . This should let you know where I stand in relationship to *Time* magazine.

Sincerely yours,

MORRIS FISHBEIN.

* Note: Editorial comment was made in the May issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (page 355) concerning certain misstatements in the lay magazine, *Time*, in which the American and California Medical Associations were mentioned. The article in *Time* led to considerable conjecture as to the possible source of the statements made. Here and there names of different persons were mentioned in connection therewith. It is therefore of interest to note that officers of the American Medical Association had the same point of view as our own as expressed in the editorial criticisms written for the May CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. A letter from Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and one from Dr. Olin West, secretary of the American Medical Association, are here given.

THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO

Mr. Henry R. Luce,

May 19, 1936.

New York City.

Dear Mr. Luce:

During the last two months physicians everywhere have begun to comment on innumerable inaccuracies in the section of *Time* devoted to medicine. Moreover, the point of view relative to the American Medical Association and relative to the attitude of the majority of physicians of this country toward socialization and regimentation of medicine has occasioned some doubt as to where *Time* stands on this matter.

I feel that the question is of sufficient importance to bring to your attention the enclosed statement from CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, which is the official publication of the California Medical Association. Incidentally, I can affirm everything that CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE says relative to the inaccuracies of the item which was published in *Time*.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MORRIS FISHBEIN.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Chicago, June 10, 1936.

Dear Doctor Kress:

I am greatly obliged to you for your letter of June 1, to which is attached a leaflet on Group Medical and Hospital Service, reprinted from the *Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Monthly*. I shall send this on to our Bureau of Medical Economics.

I have just been informed that at the recent meeting of the California Medical Association a statement was rather freely made to the effect that the American Medical Association had something to do in some mysterious way with the publication of certain items which recently appeared in the magazine *Time*. Any such rumor is, of course, without any basis in fact. Unfortunately, some of our friends seem to be so constituted that they do not require facts to serve as a basis for rumors which they help to circulate.

I shall be delighted to see the account of the Coronado meeting in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. I hope you had a splendid session.

With my sincere good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

OLIN WEST.

Concerning dinitrophenol and its dangers.

To the Editor:—I am referring to you a letter from the Cutter Laboratories stating their position in discontinuing the sale of dinitrophenol. In a conversation with their representative at the Arizona State Medical Association meeting at Nogales in April, 1936, I suggested that such ethical commercial laboratories as their own should discontinue the sale of this drug, on account of the unprecedented occurrence of cataracts in patients using dinitrophenol as a reducing medicine.

I was, therefore, pleased to learn from Dr. R. K. Cutter at the California State Medical Association meeting at Coronado in May that they had discontinued the sale of the drug.

You may have this correspondence for whatever publication you may desire to give to it in the interest of informing physicians of the dangers of the use of dinitrophenol.

Very truly yours,

HAROLD F. WHALMAN, M.D.

Dear Doctor Whalman:

Answering your letter of the 1st requesting our position in discontinuing the sale of dinitrophenol, I believe that this can best be done by quoting the letter which we send out when we refuse to fill orders.

We appreciate your recent order for dinitrophenol, but regret that we are unable to fill it, as we have discontinued the sale of this drug.

It was with considerable hesitation that we announced through the profession the availability of Dinitrophenol (Cutter). We did not do so because we thought the product had been proven, but rather because we knew that